

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“ ”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“~~—~~”) being deleted:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of analyzing a polyionic molecule by mass spectrometry, the method comprising steps of:
 - providing a polyionic molecule;
 - attaching at least one ~~charged~~ non-charged tag to the polyionic molecule to produce a polyionic molecule/tag adduct, ~~wherein the net charge on the adduct differs from that of the polyionic molecule;~~
 - modifying the tag to create charges on the tag, wherein the net charge on the adduct differs from that of the polyionic molecule; and
 - analyzing the adduct by mass spectrometry.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of analyzing a collection of polyionic molecules by mass spectrometry, the method comprising steps of:
 - providing a collection of polyionic molecules, wherein the molecules have different charges;
 - attaching at least one ~~charged~~ non-charged tag to each polyionic molecule to produce a collection of polyionic molecule/tag adducts, ~~wherein the net charge on each adduct differs from that of each corresponding polyionic molecule;~~
 - modifying the tag to create charges on the tag, wherein the net charge on each adduct differs from that of each corresponding polyionic molecule; and
 - analyzing the collection of adducts by mass spectrometry.
3. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing comprises incorporating a charged tag into the polyionic molecule during synthesis of the molecule.

4. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing comprises providing a polynucleotide.
5. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing comprises providing a protein.
6. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching comprises attaching at least one positively charged tag.
7. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching comprises attaching at least one negatively charged tag.
8. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching comprises attaching at least one tag having both negatively and positively charged groups.
9. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching comprises attaching a tag having at least one quaternary ammonium group.
10. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching comprises attaching the tag by a covalent bond.
11. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching comprises attaching more than one tag.
12. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching comprises attaching the tag to anywhere on the molecule.
13. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching comprises attaching the same number of tags to each molecule.

14. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching comprises resulting in the net charge on the adduct being selected from the group consisting of +3, +2, +1, 0, -1, -2, or -3.
15. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching comprises resulting in the net charge on the adduct being a value other than +1 or -1.
16. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 wherein the step of attaching comprises reducing the net charge on the adduct.
17. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 2 wherein the step of attaching comprises reducing the net charge on at least one of the adducts to a value of 0.
18. (CANCELED)
19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim ~~18~~ 1 wherein the step of the modifying comprises steps of:
deprotecting functional groups on the tag; and creating charges on tag after deprotection.
20. (CANCELED)